

March 28,2003

U.S.D.A:

Congress did not intend for Country of Origin Labeling to saddle producers with an unnecessary identity record-keeping system if they do not have any imported livestock on their ranch or farm.

Another simple box on a brand receipt or the checkoff receipt as to imported or USA, or sign an affidavit stating they are born and raised in USA,would be sufficient.

At present, slaughter cattle are back tagged at the sale barn and they can be traced right back to the ranch of origin with no problem. Keep it simple, if they are imported, keep the paper trail going all the way to meat counters. It should not be that difficult.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Maher".

Daniel Maher
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